

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00714 141034Z
ACTION L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, BC
SUBJECT: DRAFT CONSULAR CONVENTION SUBMITTED TO GOB

REF: (A) STATE 036830, (B) 77 GABORONE 2850

1. DCM AND IRO CALLED ON MINEXTAFF DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY T.D. MOGAMI MARCH 9 TO SUBMIT PROPOSED DRAFT OF US/BOTSWANA CONSULAR CONVENTION AS AUTHORIZED REF A. AT OUR SUGGESTION, GOB'S CHIEF LEGAL DRAFTSMAN, DAVID JONES, ALSO ATTENDED MEETING SINCE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS WILL PROBABLY PLAY PRIMARY ROLE IN GOB EVALUATION OF DRAFT.

2. DRAFT CONVENTION WAS TRANSMITTED UNDER COVER OF NOTE STATING OUR DESIRE TO RECOGNIZE AND FORMALIZE ALREADY EXCELLENT US/BOTSWANA CONSULAR RELATIONS BY NEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL CONVENTION. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT NEGOTIATION OF CONSULAR TREATY WOULD BE ANOTHER WAY TO ENABLE USG TO IDENTIFY ITSELF PUBLICLY WITH BOTSWANA'S PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES. COPY OF NOTE POUCHED AF/S.

3. MOGAMI INQUIRED WHETHER USG PROPOSAL WAS RELATED TO CONCERN FOR SECURITY SITUATION IN BOTSWANA. WE REPLIED THAT PROPOSAL REFLECTED WORLD-WIDE USG INTEREST
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IN NEGOTIATING CONSULAR CONVENTIONS AND WAS UNRELATED TO SPECIFIC SECURITY CONCERNS IN BOTSWANA. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE MENTIONED THAT US HAD FEW MODERN CONSULAR TREATIES WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THAT US/BOTSWANA TREATY MIGHT SERVE AS MODEL FOR OTHER CONVENTIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. WE BRIEFLY REVIEWED CONTENTS OF DRAFT TREATY WITH MOGAMI AND JONES EMPHASIZING THAT PART IV (CONSULAR FUNCTIONS) SEEMS TO US TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT SECTION OF THE TREATY. IN THIS REGARD, WE EXPLAINED THAT CERTAIN SECTIONS (I.E., THOSE DEALING WITH SEPARATE CONSULATES AND SEAMEN AND SHIPPING PROBLEMS) APPEAR IN DRAFT FOR REASONS OF COMPREHENSIVENESS AND UNIFORMITY WITH VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS AND OTHER MODERN CONSULAR TREATIES.

5. MOGAMI AND JONES ACCEPTED DRAFT CONVENTION AND AGREED TO STUDY IT.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE THE REACTION OF THE TWO GOB OFFICIALS CONFRONTED WITH OUR 57-PAGE DRAFT CONSULAR CONVENTION, BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST PRESENTED TO GOB. CHIEF LEGAL DRAFTSMAN JONES, ONE OF TWO IN THE ENTIRE GOB, WILL APPARENTLY HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEWING AND COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT. AT THIS STAGE WE ARE UNABLE TO ESTIMATE WHEN COMMENTS CAN BE EXPECTED.
NORLAND

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